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**GOLDING BARGE LINE**

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April 30, 2004

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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

Docket Management Facility  
USCG-200314472/MARAD-2003-15171

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Room PL-400  
400 Seventh Street  
N.W. Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

USCG-2003-14472-17

MARAD-2003-15171-12

Dear Sir:

I would like to comment on the lease financing proposals on the U.S. ownership provisions of the Jones Act. I represent the views of Golding Barge Line Vicksburg Mississippi. We operate red flag tank barges on all navigable inland waterways. Golding Barge Line employs 6 land based personnel and has 32 vessel based personnel on our charter boats. With capital investments of more than \$ 32,000,000.00 the Jones act is the life blood of our business. These investments were made in reliance on the integrity of the 1996 lease financing provisions to the Jones Act.

As AWO members, Golding Barge Line supports the comments of the AWO and Maritime Cabotage Task Force that have been made to the USCG and MarAd.

I would like to thank the USCG and MarAd for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rulemaking. I feel it is of the utmost importance to the U.S. domestic fleet and to Golding Barge Line's investment in Jones Act vessels for the Coast Guard and MarAd to take prompt action to resolve the issue.

Once again I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to express our concerns on NPRM. A quick and correct action on this is vital to the future of our company.

Sincerely

Randy D. Martin-Nez  
Vice President  
Golding Barge Line

*Large Enough to Deliver. Small Enough to Care*